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NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1956



Public Health Department,  
Lewes House,  
High Street,  
LEWES,  
Sussex

April, 1957.



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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Newhaven Port Annual Health Report for the year 1956.

During the year the total number of inward passengers (alien and British) who arrived at the Port was 198,786 whilst the outward passengers who embarked at the Port numbered 194,613.

The Cross Channel boat service between Newhaven and Dieppe was suspended between 19th November and 18th December and resumed on 19th December to the end of 1956. It continued until 2nd January, 1957, and was suspended thereafter.

During 1956 the aliens arriving at the Port numbered 49,934 and the outward aliens numbered 47,602.

The annual numbers of inward aliens who arrived at Newhaven from 1945 to 1956 are given in the following table:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Inward Aliens</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Inward Aliens</u>
1945	17,911	1951	51,918
1946	26,376	1952	52,104
1947	31,551	1953	51,084
1948	41,412	1954	54,652
1949	48,127	1955	58,410
1950	49,521	1956	49,934

Of the 49,934 inward aliens who arrived at the Port in 1956 47,628 were inspected by the Medical Inspector; 2,306 were subject to detailed medical examination, of which 19 were found undesirable for medical reasons and 7 were physically incapacitated.

Strict surveillance of all aliens by the Medical Inspector of Aliens is imperative on many grounds. It is essential that all inward aliens be subjected to the closest medical inspection, otherwise what may appear trivial at first glance might result in serious consequences if the alien was allowed to proceed unchecked. If required, certain aliens must undergo further and more detailed medical examinations and these may take some considerable time, and usually do.



During the year under review the total number of vessels which entered Newhaven was 1,306 comprised of 1,039 from foreign ports and 267 coastwise. Imports amounted to 162,929 tons, of which the principal items were coal, coke and patent fuel (120,948 tons); fruit and vegetables (9,155 tons); iron and steel (2,211 tons) and timber (2,704 tons). Exports amounted to 30,027 tons of which the principal items were vehicles and vehicle parts (9,500 tons); machinery (3,635 tons), and building and road materials (2,047 tons). The average annual tonnage of imports for the five years 1947 to 1951 was 175,317 tons whilst that for the succeeding five years 1952 to 1956 was 167,803 tons. Exports rose from an annual average tonnage of 23,534 for the period 1947 to 1951 to that of 29,207 tons for the next five year period 1952 to 1956. The tonnage exported has always been much less than the tonnage imported.

Inspections of Cross-Channel passenger vessels showed that the accommodation for passengers and crew continued to show satisfactory hygienic conditions.

The number of vessels (foreign and coastwise) inspected by the Medical Officer of Health was eight and that by the Public Health Inspector was sixty-two. Five informal notices were served as regards nuisances on foreign going ships and four on coastwise. Two notices were complied with on coastwise vessels. No ship was reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.

The suspension of the Cross-Channel boat service between Newhaven and Dieppe for about one month during 1956 made a difference between the total passengers carried to and from Newhaven and a difference between the number of inward and outward aliens as compared with the year 1955. In 1955 the total number of inward passengers (alien and British) who arrived at Newhaven was 232,564 with inward aliens numbering 58,410. In the same year the total number of outward passengers (alien and British) was 233,489 with outward aliens numbering 57,754. In 1956 the total number of inward passengers (alien and British) was 198,786 with inward aliens

numbering 49,934. In the same year the total number of outward passengers (alien and British) was 194,613 including 47,602 outward aliens.

At the time of writing this Annual Report it was known that the Cross-Channel boat service at present suspended from 3rd January, 1957 will not recommence until 5th April 1957. If this is going to be the pattern for future years the administrative arrangements for carrying out the medical inspection of aliens will have to be altered and this alteration may have to remain permanently. As mentioned in the 1955 Annual Report the experience in endeavouring to carry out the medical inspections in the past with only two Medical Inspectors of Aliens resulted in anything but reasonable periods off duty. Difficulties arose during 1956 when one or the other medical inspector was absent from duty through illness. Fortunately, these difficulties were overcome by the employment of local general practitioners who undertook the medical inspections temporarily. It appears that the best solution would be to employ a sufficient number of local medical men in the future to afford reasonable coverage.

Dr. Stenhouse, one of the two regular medical inspectors of aliens, obtained another appointment in the early part of 1957. Part of his time was occupied by carrying out school medical inspections for the County Council. This latter arrangement is to be discontinued.

Accommodation for the medical inspections and examinations of aliens at the Port was as satisfactory as possible in the layout and limited space available.

Application was made to The Ministry of Health on 11th October, 1956, in order that Newhaven be authorised as a "Designated Approved Port" for the issue of deratisation and deratisation exemption certificates. It is understood that Ministerial authorisation will be granted subject to the Port Public Health Inspector under-going a course at the Port of London and arrangements being made for a suitable deputy during holiday times etc.

When a ship is due for a certificate and it is found that the vessel is free from rats or is maintained in such a condition, or that the number of rats on board is kept down to a minimum, a



deratting exemption certificate may be issued. On the other hand, if it is found that conditions are such that rat destruction by trapping, poisoning or fumigation is held to be justified, the Port Medical Officer can insist on such a course before a deratting certificate is issued. The numbers of rats on ships are much less nowadays than they were formerly, and the number of exemption certificates issued at ports in the United Kingdom is now far less proportionately than that of deratisation certificates. In some years the exemption certificates amount to over eighty per cent of the total deratisation and exemption certificates combined. Although United Kingdom ports have been free of plague infected rats there have been instances during the last century where infected rats have been found in vessels arriving at British Ports. There still remains the danger of the importation of plague into this country by infected ships rats and constant watch is essential as regards the rat population of ships.

The plague is caused by a germ called bacillus pestis. When these germs are swallowed by a flea they multiply in the flea's gut. When the flea bites the rat to feed on it the germs are transmitted to the rat on the flea regurgitating them into the wound. The rat is then infected and other fleas become infected by feeding on it. If the germ-carrying flea bites man the same process of regurgitating into the bite occurs and man is infected. Rats which mostly inhabit dock areas belong to the species "rattus rattus" the black rat, which was the original rat belonging to this country until displaced to a great extent by the brown rat, "rattus norvegicus". The latter is now found mostly in towns and in country areas.

Besides being the vector of plague infested fleas a rat may carry other diseases such as Weil's disease and infect foodstuffs thereby transmitting the diseases to human beings. As the period of gestation in the rat is about only three weeks, and a litter usually numbers six to eight young, it can be readily appreciated that a country would be soon overrun unless the rat population was kept in check. Besides trapping and poisoning as methods employed to get rid of ships rats, good results have been obtained through rat-proof-

ing various parts of a vessel such as the galley and other places where rats feed and nest. If the proofing is carried out extensively the rats find conditions so uncomfortable for them that they soon leave the ship. They are remarkably intelligent animals and won't settle in a well proofed vessel. It has been found in the United States that it is never necessary to fumigate a single ship for rat destruction where the vessel has been constructed and structually maintained in accordance with rat-proofing specifications. In addition to being carriers of the diseases of plague, Weil's disease, food poisoning etc. rats cause enormous damage to cargo and fabric aboard vessels and to stores and fabric ashore.

In conclusion I have to thank Mr. Harrison for his ever ready assistance and other officials at the Port for their courtesy and helpfulness. I appreciate also the help and encouragement which you have shown me during the year.

Yours obediently,

G. M. DAVIDSON LOBBAN, M.B., Ch.B.,  
D.P.H., F.R.S.I. etc.

Port Medical Officer & Medical Inspector  
of Aliens, Newhaven Port.

Public Health Department,  
Lewes House,  
LEWES,  
Sussex.

April, 1957.



SECTION 1 - STAFF.

TABLE A.

Name of Officer.	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications.	Any other appointment held
Dr. G.M.D.S. B. Lobban.	Port Medical Officer and Medical Insp. of Aliens.	15th May, 1945.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.H., F.R.I.P.H., F.S.M.O.H.,	M.O.H. E.Sx. United District Physician (Infectious Diseases) Brighton & Lewes Hospital Group, S.E. Met. Reg. Hospital Board.
Dr. R.A. Stenhouse.	Assistant Port Medical Officer of Health and Asst. Medical Insp. of Aliens.	19th April, 1948.	L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.)	Asst. School Medical Officer, E.Sx.C.C., Asst. M.O.H. to Newhaven U.D.C.
Dr. R.G.B. Young.	Temporary Asst. Medical Insp. of Aliens.	20th July, 1953.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Deputy County M.O.H., East Sussex.
Dr. E.J. Neill.	Temporary Asst. Medical Insp. of Aliens.	27th January, 1957.	M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,	-
Dr. R. Alexander.	Temporary Asst. Medical Insp. of Aliens.	27th January, 1957.	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	-
L.P. Harrison.	Port Public Health Insp. & Food Insp.	5th March, 1945.	Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.J.B., Cert.R.S.I. Meat & Foods M.R.S.H. B.O.T. Cert. Master Mariner	Public Health Inspector to Newhaven U.D.C.
Miss. R. Baldwin.	Part time Clerk Port Health Department.	4th October, 1954.	-	-
Mrs. A. Basset.	Nurse-Attendant Medical Insp. of Aliens.	1st. March, 1948.	-	-

Address and Telephone  
Number of the Medical  
Officer of Health:-

Lewes House,  
School Hill,  
LEWES, 1282.

## SECTION II.

Amount of shipping entering the District during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from:-	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		No. of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage I.D. on board.
			By the M.O.H.	By the P.H.I.	
Foreign Ports:	1,039	544,773	6	33	Nil
Coastwise:	267	62,223	2	29	Nil
TOTAL:	1,306	606,996	8	62	Nil

## SECTION III.

Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

### Passenger Traffic

Number of Passengers INWARD 198,786  
 Number of Passengers OUTWARD 194,613

(Principal	<u>IMPORTS.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>
	Coal, coke and patent fuel	120,948
	Fish	124
	Fruit and vegetables	9,155
	Iron and steel	2,211
	Timber	2,704
	Chemicals & chemical fertilizers	706
	Raw wool	205
±	Other Commodities	26,876
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>162,929</b>
±	Includes Motor Vehicles	
	Over one ton:	1,037
	Under one ton:	3,523
	Motor cycles:	704
		<b>5,264</b>

(Principal	<u>EXPORTS.</u>	
	Iron and steel	759
	Oil & spirit, Mineral & motor	122
	Building & road materials	2,047
	Machinery	3,635
±	Vehicles & vehicle parts	9,500
	Woollen goods	149
	Other textiles	187
	Chemicals & chemical fertilizers	52
	Other commodities	13,576
		<b>30,027</b>

### SECTION III

Character of shipping and trade during the year (Cont).

(Principal	<u>EXPORTS.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>
x	Includes Motor vehicles:	
	over one ton	2,772
	under one ton	1,891
	motor cycles	618
		<u>5,280</u>

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive.

The main trade of the Port is with Dieppe and near Continental Ports, but there are also arrivals from Baltic Ports with Timber.

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### SECTION IV.

#### Inland Barge Traffic

This Port is not used by Inland Barge Traffic.

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### SECTION V.

#### Water Supply.

No change.

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### SECTION VI

#### Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

No change.

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### SECTION VII

#### Smallpox.

No change

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### SECTION VIII

#### Venereal Diseases.

No change.



SECTION IX.

Cases of notifiable and other infectious disease on ships.

TABLE D.

Category	Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships.	-	Nil	Nil	Nil

Short account of measures taken on arrival by ship of (a) any case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus or relapsing fever excluded in Table D, (b) any suspected case of such disease.

No measures were required to be taken as there were:-

- (a) No cases of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus or relapsing fever, and,
- (b) No suspected cases of such disease which occurred during the year.

SECTION X.

Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

No case of malaria arrived at the port, nor did any vessel report a case of malaria during the voyage.

SECTION XI.

Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected of Plague.

No measures were taken as there were no ships infected with or suspected of plague.

## SECTION XII

### Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

#### 1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

Where possible the Public Health Inspector examines vessels for the presence of rats. A regular inspection is made in the case of Cross Channel vessels and an attempt is made to inspect thoroughly all foreign-going ships.

#### 2. Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological examination of Rodents with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Arrangements exist for the examination of rodents from ships when necessary at the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton.

No specimens were sent during 1956.

#### 3. Arrangements in the District for Deratting ships, the methods used and if done by a Commercial Contractor, the name of the Contractor.

The port is not an approved port or a designated approved port for this purpose.

Trapping and poisoning are available.

#### 4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Ships using the port are mainly Cross Channel passenger and cargo vessels with a high degree of rat-proofing and little harbourage. Colliers entering the port have been found to be almost devoid of harbourage, while in the modern vessels rat-proofing is good.

If any excessive temporary harbourage is discovered the Master is required to abate same.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category	Number
Black rats .....	Nil
Brown rats .....	Nil
Species not known .....	Nil
Sent for examination ....	Nil
Infected with plague ....	Nil

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption  
Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Number of Deratting Certificates issued after fumigation with:-

<u>H.C.N.</u>	<u>Other fumigant</u> <u>(State method)</u>	<u>After</u> <u>Trapping</u>	<u>After</u> <u>Poisoning</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Deratting</u> <u>Exemption</u> <u>Certs.</u> <u>issued.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Certs.</u> <u>issued.</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

The Port is neither an approved port nor a designated approved Port for the issue of Certificates.

## SECTION XIII

TABLE G.

Inspection of ships for nuisances.  
Inspections & Notices.

<u>Nature and number</u> <u>of Inspections.</u>		<u>Notices served</u> <u>Statutory</u> <u>Others.</u>		<u>Result of</u> <u>serving notice</u>
Foreign going	33	Nil	5	-
Coastwise	29	Nil	4	2 notices complied with
TOTAL.	62	Nil	9	2

## SECTION XIV

Public Health - Shell Fish.

No change.



## SECTION XV

### Medical Inspection of Aliens.

1. List of Medical Inspectors of Aliens holding Warrants of Appointment.

- (a) Dr. G.M.D. Lobban, Chief Medical Inspector of Aliens.
- (b) Dr. R.A. Stenhouse, Assistant Medical Inspector of Aliens;
- (c) Dr. R.G.B. Young, Temporary Assistant Medical Inspector of Aliens.
- (d) Dr. E.J. Neill, Temporary Assistant Medical Inspector of Aliens.
- (e) Dr. R. Alexander, Temporary Assistant Medical Inspector of Aliens.

Drs. Young, Neill and Alexander carried out medical inspections of Aliens during the illness and absence off duty of Dr. Stenhouse.

2. No change

3. No change.

5. No change.

4. Nature and Amount of Aliens Traffic.

	TOTAL:-	Number inspected by the Medical Inspector.	Number subjected to detailed examination by the Medical Inspector	Lunatic, idiot or mentally deficient.	Undesirable for medical reasons.	Physically incapacitated	Suffering from acute infectious disease.	Transmigrants.
(a) Total number of Aliens landing at the Port.	49804	47500	2304	-	17	7	-	-
(b) Aliens refused permission to land by the Immigration Officer.	130	128	2	-	2	-	-	-
(c) Transmigrants.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(d) Total Aliens arriving at the Port.	49934	47628	2306	-	19	7	-	-

Total number of vessels carrying alien passengers ..... 429

Total number of vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspector. 429

## SECTION XVI

Arrangements for Burial on Shore of persons who have died on board ship.

No change.

